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Communist Cash Helped Finance Mayday Show

WASHINGTON--Is there a Communist money man under the bed--or in the bedrolls--of some of the more militant anti-war outfits? Both federal law enforcement agencies and intelligence people say you betcha life there is.

Unfortunately, none of these spokesmen will be quoted by name, which is at the very least annoying. But some of their not-for-attribution statements make enough horse sense to merit public disclosure, especially since the recent Mayday high jinks attracted a sizable horde of protesters, and because in this day and age even demonstrations don't come cheap.

So it is not unreasonable to try for size a couple of items gleaned from the involved governmental outfits:

1. "About a million dollars in peace contributions" has been traced through disbursing Swiss and Swedish banks to Communist Russia, Czechoslovakia, Red China, Cuba and Communist-oriented Chile. Some of this money reportedly was spent in Washington during the recent disorders.

2. A Central Intelligence Agency man says the Washington "tom-foolery" cost the demonstrators more than \$500,000--"and those people can't lay their hands on that kind of money without help from abroad."

These items would seem to support the views of Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, the only official at this writing who has been willing to be quoted on alleged Communist involvement. Mitchell has said some of the leaders of the antiwar protest had "Communist-oriented or related backgrounds," and there was "no doubt" that some of the money that helped finance recent demonstrations came from "Communist sources."

All this suggests the danger of dismissing out of hand current hearings of the House Internal Security Committee investigating the National Peace Action Coalition, which organized the April 24 march, and the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, which ran the subsequent mini riots. The House Committee, headed by Rep. Richard Ichord, D-Mo., has never been noted for even-handedness or a capacity for coldly objective reasoning, but this time it might have something to dig its teeth into.

At any rate, the committee was not overstepping its responsibility or constituted duty in authorizing subpoenas for the financial records of those two "peace" organizations. It is, if the reader will forgive an old-fashioned expression, in the American tradition for Congress to wonder, publicly, where lobbying outfits get their dough.

For instance, most of us desire to discover whether a lobby pressuring members of Congress to pass certain legislation--concerning, say, the oil industry--is financed by petroleum's fat cats. When a businessman testifies in favor of giving X billion bucks to an underdeveloped foreign country, it is the people's right to know if the handout will enhance his holdings in that country. We find fascinating, and an aid to voting, if disclosure that a certain candidate is in hock to Big Labor.

So there is no reason for Congress to deny to the public a look-see at the financial affairs of characters who make a career of wrecking public property and harassing innocent bystanders. No reason, that is, unless the "peace" outfits have something naughty to hide--as lobbyists so often do.

I don't know whether these organizations have pangs of guilt, but I did note with interest the initial response of Bradford Lyttle, a spokesman for the People's Coalition, Etc. Of the House committee's demand for the Coalition's records, Lyttle declared, "We'll give them nothing, and we will refuse to testify." However, if our assorted police and intelligence folks are right about finding Commie money floating around on certain occasions, Lyttle's will not be the last word on this matter.

Capital Fare



By
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